

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 039881
ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-04 ISO-00 SS-05 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY M/CT:RPMYERS:IJG

APPROVED BY M/CT:MR. KARKASHIAN

S/S:SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039881

FOL RPT BOGOTA 1609 ACTION SECSTATE USIA WASHDC 18 FEB 77
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1609

E.O. 11762: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER; SITREP 12

1. FEBRUARY 18 EL BOGOTANO (WHICH HIT STREETS AT 11:30 AM TODAY)
CARRIES STRAIGHTFORWARD NEWS ITEM PAGE 2, ACCOMPANIED BY USIS-
SUPPLIED PHOTO OF STARR, HEADLINED: "KIDNAPPED GRINGO (AMERICAN)
IS NOT WITH CIA." ITEM REPORTS THAT PC DIRECTOR IN VISIT TO
BOGOTANO YESTERDAY (HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PAO AND PRESS OFFICER)
CATEGORICALLY DENIED STARR HAD ANY TIES WITH CIA. STORY ALSO
CONTAINS OTHER HIGHLY FAVORABLE MATERIAL ON PC ACTIVITY IN COLOMBIA
FURNISHED IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION BY PC DIRECTOR SORZANO. US
OFFICIALS TALK WITH THE TWO SUB-EDITORS RESPONSIBLE FOR STORY
WAS SERIOUS BUT NON-POLEMICAL EXCHANGE STRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN
ASPECTS OF CASE AND JOURNALISTIC RESPONSIBILITY. MISSION HIGHLY
GRATIFIED RESULTS OF THIS EFFORT AND APPROPRIATE APPRECIATION WILL
BE EXPRESSED PERSONALLY TO EDITORS BY PC DIRECTOR AND PRESS ATTACHE.
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2. OTHER DAILIES HAVE ALSO RALLIED STRONGLY TO OUR SUPPORT, BOTH
EL TIEMPO AND ESPECTADOR RUNNING PAGE ONE PHOTO AND CONTINUING STORY
TO INSIDE PAGES WITH EMBASSY RECTIFICATION. ALL THREE CALI PAPERS
CARRIED OUR RELEASE, TWO OF THEM ON FRONT PAGE. TRYING TO ASCERTAIN
COVERAGE OTHER CITIES.
COMMENT: IN THIS INSTANCE PAPERS HAVE BROKEN A STANDARD POLICY

AGAINST PRINTING RETRACTIONS REFERRING TO OTHER PAPERS, AN INDICATION
OF THEIR PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS CASE AND DESIRE TO COLLABORATE
WITH THE EMBASSY.

3. RADIO: TOLEDAR NETWORK, WHICH BLANKETS THE LLANOS REGION ON
BOTH MEDIUM AND LONG WAVE, HAS CONTINUED TO RUN USIS RELEASE.
MESSAGE CARRIED AGAIN ON FEBRUARY 17, AND ONCE MORE THIS MORNING
(FEBRUARY 18) IN 7:30 - 8:00 A.M. NEWSCAST.
SUTATENZA, A NETWORK CARRYING SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS TARGETED TO
FARMERS AND POOR IN RURAL AREAS, INCLUDING KIDNAP AREA, AIRED STORY
YESTERDAY REFERRING TO STARR AS A BOTANIST; RADIO SAYS IT WILL
CARRY ITEM TODAY IDENTIFYING HIM AS PCV.
COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT RADIO (RADIO NACIONAL) CARRIED USIS RELEASE
ON 6:30 PM NEWSCAST FEBRUARY 17, AND PRIVATE RADIO CADENA NACIONAL
RAN ITEM ON ITS 9:00 PM MEDIUM AND SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS.
SANCHEZ

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS RELEASES, ALLEGATIONS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770217/aaaaaexo.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO, PC, CIA, (STARR)
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